

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 818
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow of the General Assembly
at the death of our colleague, Senator Pete
Springer.

WHEREAS, it was with great shock and sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the untimely passing of our most trusted and valued colleague, Senator Pete Springer of Centerville; and

WHEREAS, Senator Springer was a dedicated and proficient public servant who represented the good people of the 25th Senatorial District with the utmost acumen, probity and integrity; and

WHEREAS, he modestly stated that his best ideas for legislation came from listening to his constituents; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure in the General Assembly, Senator Springer worked assiduously to provide better schools, safer communities and more accessible health care for Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who had earned the universal respect of both his colleagues and all other people involved in the legislative process, Senator Springer eschewed the gridlock

of partisan politics and worked alongside members of both parties to make Tennessee a better place to live, work and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, during the past eight years as a respected member of the Senate Education Committee and the Select Oversight Committee on Education, he had worked to improve local school funding to the same level as schools in the larger cities; he supported landmark legislation that increased state funding of schools in his district by \$80 million; and

WHEREAS, as a parent, former teacher and coach, Senator Springer understood the concerns of parents about the quality and safety of schools, and he worked to ensure the safety of teachers and students in our public schools by sponsoring legislation that dealt severely with violent and disruptive students; and

WHEREAS, believing strongly that families have an inherent right to feel safe and secure in their communities, Senator Springer was an unapologetic advocate of tougher anti-crime laws, including stronger penalties for child abuse, more severe penalties for drunk drivers, and more expeditious procedures for hearing death penalty cases; and

WHEREAS, he also supported the Safe Neighborhoods Act, which will provide \$7.5 million in grants to local communities to hire 1000 additional police officers across the state; and

WHEREAS, fearful that Tennessee could becoming a dumping ground for other states' criminals, Senator Springer was a vocal opponent of prison privatization; and

WHEREAS, a legislator of many and various talents, Pete Springer had demonstrated his singular leadership abilities as Chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee and as Vice Chair of the Select Joint Committee on Children and Youth and the Senate Democratic Caucus; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lyles in Hickman County, Senator Springer had received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Middle Tennessee State University and his Ed.S. from Tennessee State University, and utilized these degrees in a distinguished career as an educator; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Janice; their three sons, Neyland and wife, Jennifer, Vince and wife, Anne, and Jarron; their three grandchildren, Allyson, Hayden and Erin; a sister, Elizabeth Warren; two brothers, James R. Springer and Billy D. Springer; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Pete Springer was truly a man of the people; he was as friendly to and respectful of his constituents and legislative staff as he was of his colleagues, and his commitment to the health and prosperity of his fellow citizens was truly exemplary; and

WHEREAS, as we reflect upon Pete Springer's passing, we are saddened by both the loss we have experienced personally and by the fact that Tennessee will be a poorer place without him, as he represented the epitome of the devoted public servant and family man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of our colleague, Senator Pete Springer, remembering his indelible legacy of astute public service and his unwavering commitment to his fellow human beings. He was a man whose whole life was distinguished by purpose and commitment and he will be sorely missed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our condolences to Senator Springer's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.